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SUBJECT: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS TO AMBASSADOR
AMERASINGHE, PRESIDENT OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE, AND
THE PRESS FOLLOWING KISSINGER-AMERASHINGHE MEETING, NEW YORK
APRIL 8, 1976

QUOTE

MR. PRESIDENT:

I AM GLAD TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU AND WITH
YOUR COLLEAGUES. I HAVE COME TO NEW YORK TO UNDERLINE THE
GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO THE EARLY
CONCLUSION OF A TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEAS. BEYOND ITS
INTRINSIC SIGNIFICANCE I THINK IT WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS
SYMBOL OF THE ABILITY OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO SETTLE
GLOBAL PROBLEMS ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS. I HAD A VERY GOOD
TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT AND WITH THE VARIOUS CHAIRMAN OF THE
COMMITTEES. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A LOT OF WORK REMAINS TO
BE DONE. AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED WE UNDER-
STAND AND WE ARE TRYING TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE CONCERNS
OF MANY NATIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE THE TECHNICAL ABILITY YET
TO EXPLOIT ALL THE RESOURCES. WE HAVE MADE TODAY WHAT WE
COULD HOPE WOULD BE CONSIDERED FORTHCOMING PROPOSALS TO
BREAK THE DEADLOCKS THAT EXIST. WE WILL EXAMINE OTHER
IDEAS WITH AN OPEN MIND AND WE HOPE THAT WITH THIS SPIRIT--
THE SPIRIT THAT I HAVE FOUND IN THE MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT AND HIS COLLEAGUES--THAT WE CAN COMPLETE A
TREATY THIS YEAR AND THAT WOULD BE A MAJOR EVENT, I WOULD
REALLY SAY, IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

Q. MR SECRETARY CAN YOU SAY A WORD ABOUT THE US SPECIFICS
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA WHAT WE DESIRE TO HAVE?

A. WELL, I GAVE A LONG AND CONVOLUTED SPEECH TODAY AT
LUNCH AND IT WOULD TAKE ME 50 MINUTES TO REPEAT IT HERE, BUT
BASICALLY WE HAVE MADE PROPOSALS TODAY ABOUT SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH, ABOUT DEEP SEABEDS, ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL

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ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES AND ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THE
CONCERN OF COMMODITY PRODUCERS BY ACCEPTING THE PRINCIPLE
OF A LIMITATION ON PRODUCTION AND BY AGREEING TO DISCUSS THESE
ISSUES IN A FORM IN WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY
COULD PARTICIPATE AS ONE OF THE PARTIES. THERE HAVE BEEN
MANY OTHER IDEAS THAT WE'VE PUT FORWARD. I THINK THAT WE
HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A FRAMEWORK FOR
DISCUSSION.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. UNQUOTE SCRANTON